



Proposed North Fork Green River Trust Land Exchange

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PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE BETWEEN WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) AND PLUM CREEK TIMBER COMPANY

Objective

DNR proposes to exchange approximately 7,700 acres of state trust land for approximately 19,000 acres of forestland owned by Plum Creek Timber Company. This exchange would allow DNR to increase the amount of forestland it manages as a working forest in the North Fork Green River area. DNR's objective is to sustainably manage state trust lands so they provide long-term trust revenue for public school construction, county services, and other trust beneficiaries while protecting natural habitat and resources.

Benefits

The exchange will:

- Consolidate State trust lands into more manageable and desirable locations, which will increase the productivity and operational efficiency of these lands.
- Enhance forest biodiversity by consolidating forestlands that will be managed under DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan and policies for sustainable forestry.
- Enhance the sustainability of working forest landscapes to provide for future generations.
- Reduce the number of scattered, isolated state trust parcels that do not fit DNR's objective of sustainable long-term management of habitat and natural resources.

Exchange specifics

Plum Creek to DNR: 19,000 ± acres

DNR to Plum Creek: 7,700 ± acres

All of the Plum Creek Timber Company exchange lands are in eastern King County .

Plum Creek properties

- The majority of the Plum Creek property is forestland that has been privately managed for timber and other natural resource production.
- Most of the Plum Creek property is a large block of land adjacent to a major block of DNR-managed trust land in eastern King County, and within the City of Tacoma's watershed.
- Properties that the Common School trust would gain in the exchange are within a municipal watershed and would remain closed to public access and managed for sustainable forestry.

State Trust properties

- State parcels are located in Clark, Cowlitz, King, Kitsap, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pierce, Spokane, and Thurston counties.
- Most of the State trust land parcels proposed for exchange have trees; however, most are not commercial forestland.
- The State lands proposed for the exchange are generally smaller tracts that are isolated from other DNR-managed trust lands.
- The State lands involved in this exchange are Common School, Escheat and Indemnity trust lands (managed to generate income for public school construction statewide).

(more)

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- Some State Forest Transfer Lands (managed to generate income for the counties in which they are located) will be exchanged with state trust properties through an inter-grant exchange. The exchange would be for properties of equal value and similar long-term revenue potential. This repositioning will keep the State Forest Transfer trust 'whole' while allowing DNR to exchange a package of properties of interest to Plum Creek.

Exchange balance

- The exchange will be balanced based on the market values of the State and Plum Creek properties.
- Values will be determined by an independent appraisal.
- Not all lands being appraised will necessarily be included in the final exchange package.

Opportunities for public input

The opportunities for public input about this proposed exchange include testimony at the public hearings, written comments sent to DNR, and comments to the Board of Natural Resources at one of its monthly meetings.

Informational meetings for the public to ask questions and learn about the proposal were:

- November 17, 2008—Columbia High School Library, White Salmon
- November 18, 2008—Veterans Memorial Museum, Chehalis
- November 19, 2008—Battle Ground High School, Battle Ground
- November 20, 2008—DNR South Puget Sound Region Office, Enumclaw

Public hearings to receive comments for the record were:

- December 9, 2008—Veterans Memorial Museum, Chehalis
- December 11, 2008—Columbia High School Library, White Salmon

Written comments were accepted until December 29, 2008

What's next

- Input from the public, including comments made at the hearings and in writing, will be reviewed.
- Parcels proposed for exchange will be appraised.
- An exchange agreement between DNR and Plum Creek Timber if the two parties agree on the lands to be exchanged.
- The proposed agreement and a summary of public comments presented to the Board of Natural Resources, which represents trust beneficiaries, for decision at a monthly meeting.

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Additional information is available on our website: www.dnr.wa.gov
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go to Proposed Trust Land Exchanges)